REPORT ON ITCHENOR VILLAGE SHOP

Following on from the questionnaire submitted in May of this year which resulted in a majority of the respondents approving the concept of a village shop for Itchenor, a steering committee was formed.

1. The Itchenor Village Shop Steering Committee (IVSSC) has published a manifesto (see attached) to canvas support and inform villagers of its plans.
2. The IVSSC is formed from residents of the village who meet on a weekly basis to discuss the objectives, structure and financing of a village shop. In addition to the weekly meetings, it has met with officers from Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC), Chichester District Council(CDC) as well as numerous meetings with funding and advisory organisations. Further, the IVSSC have visited a number of village shops with similar aims and objectives throughout the South East to learn and benefit from their experience.
3. The Community shop will be structured as an Industrial Provident Society run for the Benefit of the Community or 'BenCom". Shares will be sold to Villagers. Every shareholder has one vote regardless of how many they buy. Shareholders will elect a management committee. . This structure enjoys the legal benefits of charitable status but is not technically a charity and is not registered with the Charities Commission. It is the most popular business model for community enterprises.
4. IVSSC is talking to the Itchenor Memorial Hall (IMH) trustees about a site at the rear of the Hall to share the site with other users..
5. IVSSC met with the CDC business development officers in Itchenor. They were very positive and supportive. This would be the first community shop south of Chichester. They advised and offered help with finding funding. The officers confirmed that planning would be needed and reported that informal discussions with CDC planning department were encouraging.
6. IVSSC met with Dr Richard Austen of the Harbour Conservancy. who offered to share his experiences of establishing a community shop in his last job in Northumberland National Park. The Conservancy has funding available.
7. IVSSC met with the Chairman and Secretary of the Itchenor Society as a courtesy, to inform them of progress. They suggested that it prepares a manifesto to inform villagers of its plans.
8. There are a number of organisations willing to consider funding for the project including:
   WSSC, CDC, WIPC, Plunket Foundation, Leader European fund, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Big Lottery, DEFRA, The European Agricultural Fund, The Sustainable Communities Fund, Action in Rural Sussex,.

The IVSSC have welcomed the support and encouragement they have received from a wide ranging group of organizations as it is seen as an opportunity to offer a community amenity of both practical and social benefit to the village.